

CITY OF ROCKVILLE
Department of Recreation and Parks

ADULT SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL
LEAGUE RULES - SPRING, 2006

I. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. Players need not live or work in the tax limits of the City of Rockville, however, new teams having rosters with 60% of this requirement fulfilled benefit with priority registration over other new teams that do not meet this requirement.
- B. Teams and players will be permitted to play in other jurisdictions, such as Montgomery County, etc. Players must be 18 years old and out of high school.

II. ROSTERS

- A. It is the Manager's/Coach's responsibility to make sure that the PRELIMINARY roster has been received in the Sports Office prior to the first league game.
- B. Rosters are to be submitted on the official roster form. Each player's name, home and work address, email address, work and home numbers should appear on the form.
- C. Each team shall be limited to 24 players at any one time.
- D. The team manager shall submit to the department prior to June 1, 2006 a FINAL roster of all the players on his/her team. No players may be added after this date for league play.
- E. A player must be officially released in writing before he/she may play with another team. No transfers after final rosters.
- F. **In the Men's Softball program individual players may not participate on more than one team within the same week night.** A player may be on only one roster in the Women's Open or Reverse Co-Rec. However, men and women can participate in the Rockville Reverse Co-Rec League in addition to their Men's or Women's Leagues.

PENALTIES FOR THE ABOVE: A player in violation of this league rule is an ineligible player, and both teams he/she are playing for are subject to forfeiting each and every game in which he/she participates. Coaches are responsible for the absolute validity of the team rosters submitted to the Sports Office. The use of an ineligible ballplayer will

result in the coach, whose name appears on the roster, being suspended for a minimum of two games, in addition to other penalties. Check with each of your players immediately and advise them of the league rule. Any player in violation must decide which specific team they are going to permanently roster.

III. **PLAYING RULES**

- A. Unless modified by this set of rules, all games of the league shall be played in accordance with the current slow pitch rules adopted by the Amateur Softball Association (ASA).

- B. The number of players to start and continue a game shall be as follows:

All leagues - A game may start and/or be played with a minimum of 9 players. If a 10th player arrives after the start of a game, he/she bats in the 10th position. Any team playing with 9 players, the 10th batter position does not constitute an automatic out.

- C. **Additional Hitter Rule** (optional in the Men's and Women's Leagues) **Co-Rec Leagues see special section on Co-Rec rules.** A team may insert an additional hitter into its line-up at the start of a game only. The batting order must remain constant; however, any 10 of the 11 players can take a defensive position throughout the game. If the game is started with 11 players, it must end with 11 players if substitutes are available. A team may finish with 10 players, or 9 players when there is not a substitute available. All 11 players shall be subject to the re-entry rule.

- D. **Courtesy Runners: (Only for Individuals with Physical/Health Related Issues or Players Injured During a Game and no Substitutes are Available):** a Courtesy Runner at the first dead ball may replace any batter/base runner on a base after they reach base. The Courtesy Runner is defined as "the last completed turn at bat not currently on base" (Co-Rec) – "the last completed turn at bat of the same sex not currently on base". If it should happen in the first inning and no one has been retired or scored, it will be filled by the last spot in the batting order. **Players with Physical/Health Related Issues, requesting Courtesy Runners, must report to the umpire, as well as, gain approval from the opposing manager, prior to entering the game; same process and approval procedure for players injured during a game.**

- E. **Rule 6 – Pitching Regulation (Slow Pitch)**
(Safety) – A imaginary line from the front edge of each side of the pitching rubber will be drawn back (6)six feet to form a rectangular box. Since the pitching rubber is (50) fifty feet from the home plate, the imaginary box will extend back to (56) fifty-six feet, and the pitcher will be allowed to pitch anywhere inside of that box. The

pitcher must have one foot touching the box to begin pitching. All other rules regarding pitching will still be in force.

- F. Rule 8. Sec. 4G – Stealing (Men’s Slow Pitch)
(This rule does not apply to any of the men’s , women’s or co-rec softball leagues.
- G. Any team leading by 10 or more runs after 5 innings (4 &1/2 if the home team is ahead) or any complete inning thereafter will be declared the winner and the game will be complete.
- H. Home run rules (an untouched fair ball over the fence) are in effect for league play as follows:
 - Men’s ‘C’ – (5) home runs team per game
 - Men’s ‘C/D’ – (4) home runs team per game
 - Men’s ‘D’ – (3) home runs team per game
 - Co-Rec and Women’s (all divisions) (5) home runs per team per game

Teams are responsible for retrieving or providing back-up balls, as specified in these rules, for home runs hit over the fence. If a player hits a **over the limit**, successive untouched ball over the fence, the batter will be ruled out.
- I. Base awards must be touched in legal order.
Exception: All Men’s Slow Pitch. (This does not apply to Co-Rec and Women’s Play). **On any fair-batted ball hit over the fence for a home run, or a four base award, the batter and any runners are credited with a score. The batter and any runners can go directly to the dugout. This would eliminate any runner appeal play.**
- J. A player shall be officially in the game when his/her name has been entered on the Official Score Sheet (home team is official) or has been announced. When preparing the team’s batting order for the game, and prior to exchanging line-ups with the opposition, you must use the following format for listing player’s names. Always first initial and last name in full. When more than 1 player has the same last name, please list full first and last name of these players.

IV. **REVERSE CO-REC PLAYING RULE EXCEPTIONS**

- A. A team shall consist of 5 men and 5 women. If a team is playing with 9 players, there must be 5 of one sex and 4 of the other sex on the field.
- B. **Additional Hitter Rule** (optional in the Co-Rec Leagues)
A team may insert 2 additional hitters, one of each sex, into its line-up at the start of a game only. The batting order must remain constant; however, any 10 (5 male and 5 female) of the 12 players can take a defensive position throughout the game. If the game is started with 12 players, it must end with 12 players if substitutes are available. A

team may not play with 11 in the batting order, but a team may finish with 10 players or 9 players when there is not a substitute available. All 12 players shall be subject to the re-entry rule.

- C. In all Reverse Co-Rec divisions, the men shall hit a 12-inch circumference softball and the women shall hit an 11-inch circumference softball.
1. The home team will provide one "new" 12-inch ball and one "new" 11-inch ball.
 2. The offensive team **MUST** provide a first base coach. The first base coach will be responsible for giving the defensive pitcher the proper size ball for the batter. For example, if a team has a male batter, the first base coach will provide the 12-inch ball to the pitcher. As soon as the play has ended and the umpire calls time out, the 12-inch ball would then be replaced with the 11-inch ball for the female batter by exchanging balls between the first base coach and pitcher.
 3. If a ball is hit out of play and cannot be recovered quickly, the team that is at bat must furnish as many additional league-specified balls as needed to complete their turn at bat.
 4. If the incorrect ball is pitched to a batter the following enforcements will apply.

Female batter pitched the 12-inch ball:

- a. If the wrong ball is used, the manager of the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the last batter rebat and assume the ball and strike count prior to the wrong ball being discovered.

Male batter pitched the 11-inch ball:

- a. batter-runner safely reaches first base or beyond, the play will stand.
- b. batter-runner fails to safely reach first base as the result of a fly out, ground out, foul out, etc., the play will stand; no replays will be granted.

Male or female batters:

- a. Upon the discovery that an incorrect ball has been used, the umpire shall rectify the situation by placing the appropriate ball in play; the count from the previous pitch is official regardless of whether the batter was a male or female.

Example: Female batter

- ☐ First pitch is a strike,
- ☐ Catcher discovers that a 12-inch ball was pitched,
- ☐ Umpire replaces the 12-inch ball with the proper ball prior to the next pitch,
- ☐ The count reflects the prior pitch, which should indicate 1 ball, 2 strikes.

- D. The offensive line-up may begin with either a man or a woman, thereafter the sexes shall alternate. EXCEPTION: If a team is playing with 9 players, the offensive line-up must begin with sex which has 5 players and there will be a repetition of sex in the line-up.
- E. Positions in the field may be distributed as the coach/captain desires. While positions in the field may be changed at any time, the male/female order of the starting line-up must be maintained.
- F. Men shall assume the batting stance opposite to that which they would normally use in a softball game. Opposite-handed means: If the individual fields with the glove on the left hand and throws right-handed normally, he is supposed to bat left-handed and vice-versa. If the opposing manager feels that any male is not batting opposite handed or on their weaker side as required, he may require the batter to switch his batting stance anytime. The manager can reverse this decision anytime during the game and once the decision is reversed, it will be final.

Example: If a left-handed male batter hits a home run right-handed, the next time at the opposing manager requests that he bat left-handed. Left-handed, he bats another home run. The opposing manager has one last chance at his next at-bat to decide with which hand the batter shall bat. At this point, the decision is final.

- G. **Northern Division, 14-games Spring/Summer Reverse only:**
*The following walk rule will be used in this division only: When a male batter is walked intentionally or unintentionally, the male batter is awarded first and second base and the following female batter must bat. **Exception: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat.***

In all other Co-Rec Divisions, female batters do not have the option of walking if the preceding male batter is walked. The pitcher must pitch to all batters unless the pitcher declares an intentional base on balls.

V. ONE AND ONE COUNT

- A. In all leagues, when a batter enters the batter's box, he/she will have the count of **one ball and one strike**. After the batter has reached two strikes, he/she will be declared out when he/she hits a second foul ball. (If the foul fly ball is caught, runners may tag and advance at their own risk.)
- B. **Time Limit:** There will be a 65-minute time limit for all scheduled games on a field. The time limit begins with the first pitch.
- C. **Tie-Break Rule/One Pitch Rule:** If the game is tied after 7 innings of play, the game will be continued by using the "One Pitch" format until the tie is broken. Note: If the regulation number innings has not been completed (4 1/2 innings) and time limit has been reached, the "One Pitch" format shall be invoked until an official game has been obtained. The "One Pitch" format means the pitcher will throw one pitch to each batter. A strike is an out; a ball is a walk; and a fair ball is whatever the batter gets. When defensive team has made 3 outs, the teams quickly come to bat and continue playing. The game is completed when tie is broken and the home team has batted. If visiting team is ahead in the score, the home team must bat.

The following policies and procedures pertain specifically to Broome Park and Mark Twain School Athletic Park.

No new inning shall start after 10:30 p.m. and there is an **absolute** curfew of 10:45 p.m. All play stops at this time. If the game is official and is stopped due to the curfew in the middle of an inning, the game reverts back to the last full complete inning. The score at that time is the one of record. The games will not be continued nor will they be replayed. **If necessary, at a later date, games that are not considered official will resume at the exact point where they were stopped.**

- D. There will be a 10 minute grace period for all 6 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. weekday games. However, the official will start the time limit clock at the scheduled game time. Example, for games scheduled to start at 6 p.m. the time limit rule will be 7:05 p.m. **For Sunday league games and weekend make-up games, the 10 minute grace period will not be in effect.**

Forfeited Game: A team forfeits a game when it fails to have the minimum number of players to start a game or maintain the minimum number of eligible players to continue playing. Teams participating in Doubleheaders will forfeit each game separately. Teams that forfeit the first game of the doubleheader due to insufficient number of players, must begin the second game of the Doubleheader as soon as they have the minimum number of eligible players present, but no later than the scheduled starting time for the second game.

VI. HOW TO PROTEST

- A. All protests pertaining to the playing of a game shall be submitted to the umpire and the opposing manager at the time of the alleged infraction and prior to the next pitch.
- B. **Failure to present league rules to an umpire at the time of misapplication of that rule will result in a non-protestable decision.** *This is the Manager's/Coach's responsibility.*
- C. Protests shall be submitted in writing with a \$25 protest fee and must be in the possession of the Sports Programs Supervisor or postmarked within 48 hours after game time. If the protest is denied, the fee shall be deposited in the general fund. If the protest is upheld, the fee shall be returned.
- D. Any protest decision or rules interpretation by the Sports Programs Supervisor may be appealed by either team manager. This appeal shall be submitted in writing with a \$50 appeal fee and shall be in the possession of the Sports Programs Supervisor or postmarked within 6 days of the protest decision. This appeal shall be acted upon by a 3 member APPEALS COMMITTEE. If the appeal is upheld, the fee shall be returned. If the appeal is denied, the fee shall be deposited in the general fund.
- E. **Player Photo Identification** – At all times, players must be prepared to show positive proof of identification (Drivers License) upon request/challenge. **All protests on player ineligibility must be addressed at the exchange of the line up or when the player is first introduced into the game.** Protests as to the use of an ineligible player must be registered with the Sports Programs Supervisor by the close of the next business day; no protest fee is required and the protest must be submitted in writing. Name(s) and other personal data of the alleged offenders must be included in the written protest that is filed.

Men's Post Season City Championships Only – Each team player/member participating in the tournament must show positive proof of identification (Drivers License) before each scheduled game **No Exception!!!** Rosters will be checked and verified by the Tournament Supervisor(s). **No Photo ID – no participation in the game!**
- F. Any team using an ineligible player shall automatically forfeit each game in which the player participated. If a team knowingly uses a player under an assumed name, that team shall automatically be dropped from the league or tournament. Each game played with that player and all scheduled games not played shall be forfeited to the opponents.

VII. **DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

- A. The team manager/coach is responsible for the conduct of his/her team and team followers.

Note: Upon request, the manager/coach is responsible for furnishing the name(s) of disqualified player(s) to the umpire. Failure to cooperate will result in automatic team forfeiture, and suspension of the team manager.

- B. A player, manager, or coach who is ejected before, during, or after a scheduled contest shall be suspended from league play for at least one game (the second game of a Doubleheader is defined as one game), and depending on the severity of the incident, may be suspended additional games by the Sports Programs Supervisor. If incidents are determined severe the offender(s) will be required to attend a hearing to determine appropriate disciplinary action. In these circumstances, a Board of Conduct Review will be appointed for purposes of conducting the hearing and determining appropriate disciplinary action. **An ejected player has three minutes to leave the park premises. If the player fails to do so, the offending team will forfeit the game. Likewise, further ejections by the same player during the current season shall be dealt with more severely, including but not limited to, suspension from the program for the remainder of the season.**
- C. Before, during, and after the game, anyone who strikes, shoves, pushes, bumps, or otherwise physically threatens a umpire or Recreation & Parks staff shall be suspended from all department-sponsored activities for at least one year from the date of the incident.
- D. Any team or player(s) who violate any of the City of Rockville regulations, especially the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on park property, shall be subject to disciplinary action to be taken by the Sports Programs Supervisor.

VIII. **PLAYOFFS**

- A. Teams qualifying for the playoffs shall be as follows:
Women's Division - Format to be announced
Men's Leagues - Format to be announced
Co-Rec Reverse/Regular Division - Format to be announced
- B. A tie in league standings will be resolved as follows:
Tie Breaker:
Head-to-head competition
Net run differential (fewest runs allowed)
Play-off game
For purposes of league standings, teams shall receive 2 points for a win, one point for a tie, 0 points for a loss, and (-1) point for each forfeit.

IX. **GAME POSTPONEMENT AND RESCHEDULING PROCEDURES**

- A. **Inclement Weather Information Line:** If games are canceled, a tape-recorded message will provide this information as early as 3 p.m. on (240) 314-5055 for Monday-Friday evening games. You are urged not to call before this time as information may not be available. In the case of weekend day games, cancellation decisions will be made as soon as the fields are checked and/or enough information is collected to make the decision. In all cases, every attempt will be made to make the decision in time to allow for adequate communication within team channels. It should be noted that weather conditions can vary from park to park, and cancellations in one park do not necessarily mean cancellations in another park.
- B. In the event team opponents and/or staff are not present at your scheduled game time, please call the number for "Inclement Weather Information Line" at **240-314-5055**. This tape-recorded message is periodically updated to provide you the latest status on games.
- C. The Sports Office will be responsible for all cancellation decisions. **PLEASE DO NOT CHALLENGE THE STAFF OVER CANCELED GAMES.** In the event of inclement weather after 4 p.m., where no previous announcement has been made regarding playing conditions of fields, it shall be the sole responsibility of the umpire and/or staff representative to determine field play ability. Both teams should report to the playing field.
- D. In the event an umpire and/or staff representative decides to cancel the first ball game or doubleheader at a specific ballfield due to weather related conditions, all remaining scheduled games thereafter may be played or canceled; provided weather conditions have improved and fields are determined safe to play.
- Games which are not considered regulation shall be resumed as follows:
- Regular Season: At the exact point where game was stopped.
 - Play Offs: At the exact point where game was stopped.
- F. Games which are incomplete or postponed will be rescheduled by the Sports Office on (1) the players' scheduled make-up days if applicable; or (2) weekends (Sundays). Notification of rescheduled ball games will be forwarded via mail (memo) generally 7-10 days before scheduled contest.

X. **CALLING IN SCORES**

- A. Each division will have a "Representative" who is responsible for recording all scores of league games played by teams in his/her respective division.

- B. The winning team shall be responsible for notifying the division representative of the score by the next business day following the game. Tie games are to be reported by the home team. Doubleheaders, where there is a split, should be reported by the winning team of the second game.
- C. The division representative of all leagues shall call in all scores to the Sports Office within two business days following the game.
- D. For purposes of league standings, teams shall receive 2 points for a win, one point for a tie, 0 points for a loss, and (-1) point for each forfeit.
- E. To check standings online, go to www.rockvillemd.gov and click on "Recreation", followed by "Team Sports in Rockville."

XI. **MISCELLANEOUS**

- A. Awards shall be as follows:
 - 1. Men's Slow-Pitch Leagues:
 Division Champions - Team Trophy and Individual Awards
 Division Runner-Ups - Team Trophy

 Men's Post-Season Championships Tournament
 Champions and Runner-Ups - Team Trophy
 - 2. Women's Leagues:
 Division Champions - Team Trophy and Individual Awards
 Division Runner-Ups - Team Trophy
 Divisional Tournament Champions & Runner-Ups - Team Trophies
 - 3. Regular/Reverse Co-Rec League:
 Division Champions - Team Trophy and Individual Awards
 Division Runner-Ups - Team Trophy
 Divisional Tournament Champions & Runner-Up - Team Trophies
- B. Any player who violates the City of Rockville ordinance regarding the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on park property shall be subject to the penalties provided by law.(Rockville Code, Section 14-36)
- C. Smoking on the playing field including the dugouts, is prohibited. **We are a tobacco free sports environment.**
- D. "No Parking" zones on residential streets and parks will be enforced throughout the playing season. Please observe "No Parking" signs by parking in legal zones only. Please communicate this to all your players and team followers.

- E. Players, managers, coaches, and team followers are asked **not to bring their dogs, including leased dogs to the parks and ballfields during games.**
- F. **Uniforms: (Optional in league play)** For purposes of consistency, teams opting to use uniforms should have all players wear the same color shirt. Any teams participating/qualifying for ASA/USSSA tournament play will be required to follow tournament uniform rules.
- G. **Equipment:** The official game ball for all Men's, Women's, and Reverse Co-Rec Leagues will be furnished by the Recreation Department and to all teams. The official ball for the league play will be as follows:

Men's - WT12RF 80 ASA Leather Cover, Red Stitch, .44 Cor/375lbs. compression

Women's - WT-11 RF 80 ASA Leather Cover, Red Stitch, .44Cor/375 compression

No other softballs are acceptable other than .44 Cor/375lbs. compression balls. The Home Team shall furnish 2 new balls to start the game. If additional balls are needed, the team at bat shall furnish as many additional playable balls as needed to complete the game. The 2 new balls, 1 each, should be introduced at the top half and bottom half of the first inning. The balance of the game should always be played with the best ball as judged by the Umpire.

- H. **BATS:** Amateur Softball Association (ASA) rules on the use of bats will prevail in all leagues. The specific wording of ASA playing Rule 3 Section 1 said all bats are legal if they satisfy one of the following criteria:
 - 1. Must either bear the ASA approved 2000 certification mark or the ASA 2004 Certification mark and must not be listed on an ASA non approved bat list, or
 - 2. Must be included on a list of approved bat models published by the ASA National Office; or
 - 3. Must, in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, have been manufactured prior to 2000 and, if tested, would comply with the ASA bat performance standards then in effect.

To check out the status (specifications) of latest bats being introduced on the market, visit: www.rockvillemd.gov, and click on "**Recreation and Parks**" see "**Team Sports in Rockville** and click on "**Illegal Bat Information**".

- I. Where bases are not furnished by the department, the home team shall provide one set of substantially constructed softball bases for

each weekday home game. There shall be at least one strap and one spike per base. Failure of the home team to provide bases if other arrangements cannot be made will result in forfeiture of that game.

- J. If no official umpire arrives for a game, the teams' managers should meet and confer and decide upon one of the three options listed below. The option chosen should be exercised 10 minutes after the starting time of the game. If the umpire arrives during the 10 minute waiting period, the game is begun immediately with the home team taking the field. The three courses of action available to the teams are:
1. To choose not to play the game without an official umpire; rescheduling is then handled by the Sports Office.
 2. Agree to begin the game with a volunteer umpire. If the game is started with a volunteer umpire, it must be completed. Both managers are required to sign the official scorebook, and contact the Recreation Department, as proof of agreement. Payment to volunteers or unauthorized umpires is at the risk of the teams and the City of Rockville will not reimburse such payment.
 3. To decide to wait for the official umpire to arrive. If either #1 or #2 is chosen, the game is to begin no later than **15 minutes** after the scheduled starting time. (That means 7:15 p.m. for a 7 p.m. game, etc.) If the teams have opted for #2 and the umpire arrives subsequently, the game will continue with the official umpire resuming his duties. If the teams had opted for #3, then they could choose either to begin or not begin the game upon the arrival of the umpire. Both teams would have to agree to start or no game would be played.
- K. The franchise fee shall cover all umpire fees for league and playoff games, trophies, lights, and other expenses which the league may incur.
- L. After the first inning, pitchers will be restricted to one warm-up pitch and there should be no infield/outfield ball.
- M. Blood Rule, Rule 4, Section 9 - Amateur Softball Association Playing Rules

A player, coach, or umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on his/her uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. If medical care or treatment is administered in a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is left to the umpire's judgement. Uniform rule violations will not be enforced if a uniform change is required. The umpire shall:

- A. Stop the game and immediately call a coach, trainer or other authorized person to the injured player and allow treatment.
- B. Apply the rules of the game regarding substitution, short-handed player and re-entry if nessary.

Section 10. Injured Player.

During a live ball situation, when a player becomes injured, and in the umpire's judgment requires immediate attention, the umpire shall call "**DEAD BALL**" and allow or seek first aid.

EFFECT: Award any bases that would have been reached.

XII. MAINSTREAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Individuals with handicapping conditions are encouraged to register and take part in City of Rockville Recreation Department programs. In order to facilitate participation, the department will attempt to make appropriate special accommodations. Anyone interested in learning about access to Recreation Department programs and facilities may call 240-314-8620 to speak with the Sports Programs Supervisor. Arrangements must be made with the department each season. This policy does not apply to injured players.

XIII. WAIVER OF LIABILITY

The City of Rockville assumes no liability for injury or damage arising from participation in the adult softball program. **We strongly urge** that each team in the league have insurance to cover each player appearing on the roster for every game, practice game, and travel to and from each league game and practice game, or each player be covered by personal health insurance. The team roster includes an "Agreement to Participate" and a "Release" on the back of the roster. A player's signature on the roster indicates that the player has read and understands the terms of the "Agreement" and "Release."